

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 26

BOSTON GLOBE
27 September 1984

Reagan says spy capacity lacking

By Benjamin Taylor
Globe Staff

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio — President Ronald Reagan yesterday blamed last week's bombing of the US Embassy annex near Beirut on the "near-destruction of our intelligence capability in recent years."

Reagan, who has been accused by Walter F. Mondale of providing insufficient security at the embassy, was apparently trying to put the responsibility for the attack on the Carter Administration, though he did not mention it by name.

"We're feeling the effects of the near-destruction of our intelligence capability in recent years," Reagan said in response to a ques-

tion about beefing up security at US embassies as a result of the bombing. Before he took office, Reagan said, there was an "effort ... to say, well, spying is somehow dishonest, and let's get rid of our intelligence agents."

"We did that to a large extent," he maintained. "We're trying to rebuild our intelligence to where you'll find out and know in advance what the target might be and be prepared for" potential terrorist attacks.

Mondale camp critical

In New York last night, Mondale's campaign spokesman, Dayton Duncan, said: "The bombing of our embassy annex last week has got nothing to do with intelli-

gence adequacy or inadequacy. The Reagan Administration was warned privately as well as publicly that this was about to happen.

"In addition, there had been three other similar bombings of American facilities in that region. It does not take an intelligence agency to know you need gates and other basic security precautions — it takes common sense."

During a speech in Washington, Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.), the Senate minority leader, called Reagan's statement "the ultimate disappearing act. ... Where's he been for the last four years? And if Mr. Reagan hasn't been President of the United States, then who has?"

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, told the Washington Post that Reagan's statement about intelligence cuts, "is not only false, it is reckless." He said Reagan was trying to politicize the CIA and suggested that "an apology is in order. If none is forthcoming, a motion of censure will be in order."

Reagan, echoing comments made last week by Vice President George Bush, said it was impossible to erect security precautions "that can make you 100 percent safe against a suicide who is intent on bringing in that destruction at the cost of his own life." He said the "real protection" lies in knowing when and where terrorists will strike.

Demonstrators kept away

Aside from a tomato that was thrown at and missed Reagan when he landed on the Bowling Green University campus by helicopter, Reagan received an enthusiastic welcome from the roughly 4600 students and supporters who crowded into the field house and greeted him with chants of "USA" and "Four More Years."

Several hundred demonstrators, yelling anti-Reagan slogans

such as "Ronald Reagan, he's no good, send him back to Hollywood," and "No more years," were kept by police several hundred yards away from the hall where Reagan appeared. Students at the rally said tickets for the event were distributed on campus primarily through the fraternities and sororities, where the more conservative students tend to live.

"Getting a ticket to this ended up being really political," said Julie Costanzo, a 21-year-old senior from Cleveland. "Essentially, you had to go through one of the fraternities or sororities unless you wanted to stand in line all night."

The White House spokesman, Larry Speakes, said 1000 tickets for the event were given out to a northwest Ohio Republican organization, 2300 to "campus organizations," and 1300 on a first-come, first-served basis.

Mondale has criticized Reagan for running a campaign where he is kept in isolation from the press and the voters; in an attempt to blunt that criticism, Reagan took nine questions from the audience at the university event.

After he finished his prepared speech, Reagan said, "I've heard there's a fella going around the country who says that I don't answer questions," then he said that he would.

The master of ceremonies said questioners were randomly selected. Each of the nine questions was on a different topic, however.

The Reagan campaign spokesman, James Lake, insisted the questions weren't planted.

The session provided comments more interesting than many in the prepared texts Reagan has been stuck with in most campaign speeches.

At one point, for instance, in response to a question about whether Soviets and Americans want peace, Reagan said, "Peace in America is such an attractive way to live that a war is a terrible interruption."